



National Education Association Myths/Realities on Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations (H.R. 5320)

NEA Myth #1: The bill cuts ESEA funding by \$90 million.

Reality: Total Elementary and Secondary Education Act funding under H.R. 5320 and the President's budget increases from \$21.9 billion to more than \$22 billion (source: Congressional Research Service).

NEA Myth #2: The bill falls \$4.65 billion short of the ESEA FY 03 authorized level for Title I.

Reality: H.R. 5320 and the President's budget provides nearly \$11.4 billion for Title I, a \$1 billion increase over FY 02 (source: CRS). This is consistent with increases from the last several fiscal years. Further, it is sensible to wait until the reforms of the No Child Left Behind Act are fully implemented and proven to work before more money is put into Title I, a program that has not proven to be successful in eliminating the achievement gap between disadvantage children and their more affluent peers.

NEA Myth #3: The bill provides "only" a \$1 billion IDEA increase.

Reality: The IDEA increase in H.R. 5320 and the President's budget is one of the largest in recent years and amounts to an **11 percent increase**.

NEA Myth #4: The bill completely eliminates 40 education programs.

Reality: Many of the programs eliminated in H.R. 5320 the FY 2003 budget are duplicative of other education programs. For example, the Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology program, funded \$62.5 million in FY 2002, duplicates activities that can be funded through both the Technology State Grants and Teacher Quality State Grants programs. The Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse program, funded \$25 million in FY 2002, funds activities that are supported in the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. Eliminating these small, narrow-use programs (many of which received less than \$35 million in funding in FY 2002) allows funding to be increased for programs that serve millions of students.

NEA Myth #5: The bill freezes funding for teacher quality.

Reality: While the bill does hold funding for the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants at the fiscal year 2002 level of \$2.85 billion, if this amount is appropriated for fiscal year 2003, teacher quality funding will have increased **36 percent** since fiscal year 2001.